

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Asano et al.  
Appl. No.: 09/530,200  
Conf. No.: 3922  
Filed: May 15, 2000  
Title: NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND NATURAL  
LANGUAGE PROCESSING METHOD  
Art Unit: 2626  
Examiner: Lamont M. Spooner  
Docket No.: 3712174-779

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Sir:

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated December 2, 2009.